

**Prevention of Illicit Drug
Use and Marijuana Use
MAY 15**

FAST FACT





**Using illicit drugs or
marijuana changes your
brain chemistry. The
earlier and longer you use
drugs, the more damage is
done.**

**Inspiring Action.
Changing Lives.**

Children and teens may think that marijuana is harmless because some states have legalized it for medical and/or recreational use.

So what can YOU do?

 Talk early and often with your child.

 Set clear rules and enforce them fairly.

Marijuana Use Facts

26,000,000+
(Up **2 million** from last year)

The number of individuals, age 12 and older, who were current users of marijuana in **2017**.

Marijuana Use in Connecticut



In 2017, about 3 out of every ten (34.5%) CT high school students said they had ever tried marijuana, and 1 out of 5 (20.4%) was a current user.

Cocaine Use Facts



Young people who have used marijuana are at greater risk of using cocaine than those who have not.



Cocaine use speeds up HIV infection. According to research, cocaine impairs immune cell function and promotes reproduction of the HIV virus.

Heroin Use Facts



Studies have shown some loss of the brain's white matter associated with heroin use, which may affect decision-making, behavior control, and responses to stressful situations.

Sources: dea.gov, cdc.gov, drugabuse.gov and NSDUH, 2015-2016

Learn more:

CT.GOV/DMHAS/NPWResources

#CTPreventionWeek